Illegal trade in Ozone depleting substances

646. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an independent international agency has declared India as a home for illegal trade in Ozone depleting substances;

(b) whether it is also a fact that hundreds of tonnes of ODS was smuggled into India last year; and

(c) if so, what measures have been taken to protect the environment?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The Environmental Investigation Agency, a Non Governmental Organisation has reported smuggling of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) into India. There have been a few cases of smuggling of Ozone Depleting Substances and action has been taken. All the field' formations under the Customs Department including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence are vigilant and alert to thwart any attempts of smuggling of Ozone Depleting Substances.

Unpaid staffs of Palamau and Simlipal Reserve Forests

647. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that employees of Palamau and Simlipal reserve forests are not paid salaries on time; and

(b) whether the Union Government are not sending funds in the tiger reserves in time?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Government of India under the Project Tiger Scheme has

released funds during July 2001 which includes salary component as per details below:

(Rs. in lakhs)

s N	Tiger Reserve	Central Assistance Sanction	Salary Component	Funds released
1	Simlipal Tiger Reserve	198.03	40.00 (Salary) 2.50 (T.A) 66.555 (Salary + TA)	126.81
2	Palamau Tiger Reserve	79.29		50.00

Karnataka rivers under National River Conservation Programme

648. **SHRI H.K.** JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount earmarked to, be spent under the National River Conservation Programme during 2000-2001 to rehabilitate and clean rivers;

(b) whether the Karnataka Government has requested to include any of its polluted rivers under this scheme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) An amount of Rs. 210.05 crore was earmarked to be spent in the year 2000-2001 for conservation of rivers under National River Conservation Plan (NRCP).

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The following rivers and towns of Karnataka have been included under the plan.

Rs. in Lakhs

S. No.	Town	Rivers	Sanctioned cost
1	2	3	4
1.	Shimoga	Tunga (Krishna)	708.93
2.	Harihara	Tungabhadra (Krishna)	249.59
3.	Bhadravati	Bhadra (Krishna)	459.49